

and 13/8/54.

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L E E S.

U R B A N D I S T R I C T C O U N C I L.

1956

Laves

T H E

A N N U A L

R E P O R T

of the

M E D I C A L O F F I C E R O F H E A L T H.

and

P U B L I C H E A L T H I N S P E C T O R.

For the year ended 31st December, 1956.

U R B A N D I S T R I C T O F L E E S .

Chairman of the Council 1956 - 1957.

Councillor H. Travis J. P.

Health Committee 1956 - 1957.

Councillor H. K. Dyson, Chairman.

Councillor J. Gartside.

Councillor S. Pearson.

Councillor F. Ward.

Councillor F. Rowland.

Councillor H. Slack.

Councillor H. Hirst.

Councillor O. Bevan.

Councillor H. Travis J. P.

Councillor J. Dunkerley.

Councillor J. G. Gartside.

Councillor A. E. Hardy.

Councillor J. Albison.

Councillor H. Sherwin.

Councillor J. A. B. Taylor.

Medical Officer of Health.

T. P. O'GRADY, M.B., B.Ch. B.A.O., D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector

VERNON K. HALLOWS, M.A.P.H.I.

Council Offices,
Cross Street,
LEES,
Nr. Oldham.

To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District Council of Lees.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting for your consideration my Annual Report on the health of the district for 1956.

There were 48 births and 49 deaths during the year.

Only 22 cases of infectious disease were notified during the whole year as compared with 79 in 1955. The seven food poisoning cases were part of a larger outbreak which originated outside this district. The annual increase in food poisoning outbreaks generally which has occurred of late years is sufficient indication that constant and regular supervision of food premises is an essential measure towards the health of the community.

It is a disappointment to have to refer to the complete absence of any progress in respect of slum clearance. Indeed, not one additional new house or flat was erected during the year, nor does there appear to be any immediate plan, short-term or long-term, for dealing with the problem. Housing conditions in Lees as evidenced by the fact that at the year-end there were 170 dwelling houses in the district which were unfit for habitation on health grounds are certainly not such as to excuse neglect of this most important health factor. Good housing is the foundation of a physically and psychologically healthy community and without it all other health measures are at the best, make do and mend measures.

From our previous experience of dysentery and growing knowledge about how this disease spreads, it is increasingly obvious that the conversion of pail and waste water closets to a fresh water system is a health matter of some considerable importance.


As regards atmospheric pollution, it is clear that by reason of its situation, any effective action by this Authority must be planned in conjunction with its industrial neighbour. Personally, I can see little prospect of any immediate progress towards smoke control areas, but there is no reason why the smoke pollution from factories should not be diminished.

Finally Mr. Chairman, I thank you and the members of your Committee for your unfailing courtesy and co-operation throughout the year. I acknowledge gratefully the ever-willing help and co-operation given by Mr. Hallows, and I thank Mr. Cropper Clerk of the Council, for his willing assistance.

Yours sincerely,

T.P. O'GRADY

Medical Officer of Health.



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SECTION A

General Statistics.

Area in Acres	288
Population - Census 1951	4,160
Registrar-General's Estimate 1956	4,040
Number of inhabited houses at end of 1956	1,524
Rateable Value	£38,397
Sum represented by a penny rate	£139

Vital Statistics.

		1956	1955	1954	1953
Live Births	No.	48	59	56	73
	Crude Rate	11.9	14.4	13.7	17.7
	Adj. Rate	13.2	16.0	15.2	18.0.
Stillbirths	No.	2	1	2	0.
	Rate	40	17	34	Nil.
Deaths	No.	49	68	57	55
	Crude Rate	12.1.	16.6	13.9	13.3
	Adj. Rate	12.6	15.9	13.3	12.1
Infant Mortality.	No.	1	1	2	3
	Rate.	21	17	36	41
Neonatal Mortality.	No.	0	1	2	1
	Rate.	Nil	17	36	14

CAUSES OF DEATH.

	M. F.		1956 Total.	1955 Total	1954 Total	1953 Total
Tuberculosis - Respiratory	-	-	-	2	-	-
- Other Forms.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Infective & parasitic disease	-	-	-	1	-	-
Malignant neoplasms -						
Stomach	-	3	3	2	2	3
Lung & Bronchus	1	-	1	1	-	-
Breast	-	-	-	-	-	2
Uterus	-	1	1	-	-	-
Other sites	3	6	9	3	5	3
Vascular lesions of						
nervous system	2	4	6	9	6	2
Coronary disease, angina	5	6	11	14	5	-
Hypertension with heart disease	-	-	-	3	-	-
Other heart disease	4	4	8	11	15	25
Other circulatory disease	2	-	2	5	7	5
Pneumonia	-	-	-	1	1	2
Bronchitis	2	-	2	4	1	4
Other diseases of respiratory system.	-	-	-	2	1	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	1	2	-	2	2
Nephritis and nephrosis	-	-	-	1	3	-
Hyperplasia of prostate	-	-	-	1	1	-
Congenital malformations	-	1	1	-	1	-
Other defined and ill-defined diseases.	-	2	2	5	6	4
Motor vehicle accidents.	-	-	-	-	-	1
All other accidents	1	-	1	1	1	1
Suicide.	-	-	-	2	-	-
Totals.	21	28	49	68	57	55

DISTRIBUTION OF DEATHS.

Years	M. F.		1956 Total	1955 Total	1954 Total	1953 Total.
Under 1	-	1	1	1	2	2
1 - 2	-	-	-	-	1	-
3 - 4	-	-	-	-	1	1
5 - 9	-	-	-	-	-	-
10 - 14	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 24	-	-	-	-	-	1
25 - 44	1	-	-	3	-	1
45 - 64	6	8	14	19	14	15
Over 65	14	19	33	45	39	35
	21	28	49	68	57	55

SECTION B

Prevalence of and Control over Infectious and Other Diseases.

The number of cases of notifiable disease dropped sharply by comparison with 1955. No case of measles was notified and dysentery notifications dropped from 28 to only 1. There were, however, 7 cases of food poisoning 4 of which were part of a larger outbreak affecting most of the surrounding districts. This number of food poisoning cases is the largest for some years.

Again there were no cases of diphtheria or poliomyelitis and there were only 2 notifications of tuberculosis.

Tuberculosis.

Ages	New Cases				Deaths				Total Cases	
	Respiratory		Non Respiratory.		Respiratory		Non Respiratory.			
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
10-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
15-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
25-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	5	7
45-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	4
65-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Totals	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	13	13
	1		1		-		-		26	

Notifiable Diseases (Other than Tuberculosis)

	Cases Notified													Removed to Hospital	Deaths	Yearly Totals.			
	Ages.															1956	1955	1954	1953
	0	1	2	3	4	5	10	15	25	45	65								
Scarlet Fever	-	2	2	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	1	1	7	14	1	7		
Measles	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	29	131	23		
Whooping Cough	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	9	20		
Polio-paralytic	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3		
Polio-Non-paralytic	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Dysentery	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	28	6	2		
Food Poisoning	-	3	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	7	-	1	-		
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-		
Acute pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	-	-		
Puerperal pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	-		
Totals.	-	5	3	2	-	4	-	4	1	1	-	2	-	20	75	150	55		

SECTION C

The Lancashire County Council, under the National Health Service Act, is the responsible authority for the provision and maintenance of personal health services. These services e.g.,

Maternity & Child Welfare Services
Midwifery Services
Mental Health Services
Home Help Services
Ambulance Services
Care of School Children
Care of the Aged
General Welfare Services.

are administered under the Divisional Health Service Scheme by Divisional Health Committee No. 14 through the Divisional Medical Officer, "Tylon", Middleton Road, Chadderton (Tel: MAIn6251) .

Ante-natal clinics are held fortnightly in the district and child welfare clinics weekly. No school clinic facilities are available so school children attend in other parts of the Division. One midwife is resident and employed to serve in the district as is one district nurse. Home helps are available for emergencies. A charge is made for home help services dependent on the means of the person helped.

Hospital facilities are provided and maintained through the Regional Hospital Board and Hospital Management Committees without regard to local authority boundaries.

The examination of pathological specimens and samples of milk, ice-cream, water and other foods is undertaken, without charge to the authority, by the Public Health Laboratory Service, Public Health Laboratory, Monsall Hospital, Manchester 10.

The Urban District Council is responsible for those matters likely to affect or be concerned with the maintenance of high standards of environmental health. These include:

Inspection of houses re fitness for human habitation.
Control of infectious disease (Including food poisoning).
Control of slaughtering facilities and inspection of meat.
Control of food and food preparing premises.
Provision of suitable water supplies.
Detection and prevention of nuisances,
Prevention of atmospheric pollution.
Control of rodent and insect infestations.
Collection and disposal of refuse.
Provision of sanitary accommodation and public conveniences.

Report of the Public Health Inspector and
Cleansing Superintendent.

To: The Chairman and Members of the Health Committee.

Mr. Chairman, Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting to you the Annual Report upon the sanitary administration of the district and the work done during the year 1956.

Although the Department was without a head from the time of the departure of Mr. G. Oakes until my arrival in December, essential works were continued ably by Mr. N. Morton, the pupil assistant, and meat inspection duties were carried out by an inspector from the Chadderton Urban District to whom our thanks are due for such willing co-operation.

Details of the work accomplished are given in the following pages.

May I express my thanks for your pleasant welcome to me at the end of the year and also my thanks and appreciation to the Medical Officer of Health and officials for the help in settling in that was so unhesitatingly given.

Vernon K. Hallows
Public Health Inspector.

SECTION D

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Drainage and Sewerage.

The whole district is drained and sewered but the authority possesses no sewage disposal works. Sewage is conveyed to sewers of the Oldham County Borough via three main junctions, the respective flows being measured by Lea recorders, and is treated by that authority at their disposal works in Slacks Valley, Chadderton.

Public Cleansing.

A weekly collection of household refuse is maintained throughout the year, collection being direct from household bins to a motor vehicle and disposal by tipping. Tins are recovered for salvage whilst the refuse is being hand levelled at the tip face and some paper is removed for incineration on the tip top.

Dustbins are replaced by the Council, the cost being borne by the general rate funds. 124 dustbins were supplied during the year as replacements.

Number of moveable dustbins in the district is 1500.

Rodent Control.

No full-time rodent operative is employed, the necessary works being carried out by members of the road gang who have attended Ministry courses of instruction in rodent destruction. The sewer system receives a twice yearly treatment irrespective of other matters and complaints of rodent infestation handled as the circumstances permit. 33 infestations were successfully treated throughout the year.

Sanitary Accommodation.

All houses in the district are on the water carriage system although not all possess a fresh water closet. 60 waste water closets still remain and progress in their elimination seems practically nil. Not one was converted during the year under review.

Number of waste water closets	60
Number of conversions	Nil
Number of fresh water closets	1537
Number of houses on water carriage system.	1524

Smoke Abatement.

The authority co-operates in the joint scheme for the investigation of atmospheric pollution formed by 17 local authorities and has one lead peroxide guage for the determination of sulphur pollution erected in the Cemetery grounds.

Smoke emissions from factory chimneys during the year did not call for any action other than warnings, but electrification of workplaces continues to be the greatest help in reducing smoke emissions.

Water Supply.

The district is served by upland surface water from the Oldham County Borough supply. Filtration and chlorination by the cloramine process takes place at the source of the supply and 17 bacteriological and 4 chemical tests taken by the supplying authority were all reported as satisfactory during the year. Two bacteriological samples taken in the district were also reported as satisfactory.

Sanitary Inspections.

915 visits were made to 366 premises during the year consisting of

265	dwellinghouses
86	shops and business premises
10	factories
5	schools.

In the dwellinghouses 217 defects or nuisances were found and during the year 204 of these matters were remedied. It was found necessary in 7 cases to serve formal notices to ensure that the repairs were carried out, but otherwise 34 informal notices and personal visits obtained the desired results.

4 houses were found to be verminous but each infestation responded to DDT treatment and was satisfactorily cleared.

No legal action was called for during visits to the shops and generally conditions are satisfactory.

There are 5 schools in the district, one being a private school. Although each is drained and has a water supply, two schools still possess and have to make use of obsolete trough-type closets, four schools have unsatisfactory washing facilities and three schools have unsatisfactory drinking water facilities.

There are 24 factories with mechanical power, 3 factories without mechanical power, and 1 other premises requiring visiting for the purpose of the Factory Acts. 8 visits were made to factories with mechanical power and 2 visits to factories without such power. No notices or prosecutions under the Act were found necessary.

Rodent Control Work.

	Local Authority	Dwelling houses	Other Premises	Agri- cultural
Number of properties in the district	11	1412	286	6
Number of properties inspected	3	76	3	-
Number of properties found infested by :				
Rats - Major	-	-	-	-
- Minor	3	25	2	-
Mice - Major	-	-	-	-
Minor.	-	2	1	-
Number of infested properties treated by local authority.	3	27	3	-

SECTION E

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

The majority of the shops in the district sell foodstuffs of one type or another. Out of 90 shops there are no less than 72 selling food for human consumption. The various trades are represented as under:

General grocers	21
Greengrocers	5
Fishmongers	1
Butchers	8
Fish Fryers	7
Bakers/Confectioners	10
Sugar confectioners	6
Inns, clubs, etc.	12
Others.	<u>2</u>
Total.....	<u>72</u>

During the year it was found necessary to issue condemnation certificates in respect of $214\frac{1}{2}$ lbs of food from the above shops. Shopkeepers fortunately show no hesitation in calling for a second opinion when food appears bad. There were the foods concerned:

Bacon	$35\frac{1}{2}$ lbs
Cheese	15 lbs
Chocolate	$3\frac{3}{4}$ lbs
Cocnut	4 lbs
Fish Cakes	1 lb
Boiled Ham	$2\frac{3}{4}$ lbs
Luncheon Meat	$9\frac{1}{2}$ lbs
Pork Pies	$1\frac{1}{2}$ lbs
Sausages	18 lbs
Tomatoes	6 lbs
Tongue	3 lbs
Turned Food (54 tins.	11 5 lbs

Sampling of foods is carried out by officers of the Lancashire County Council staff and Dr. S.C. Gawne, M.D., B.S., M.R.C.S., informs me that during the year 7 samples of foodstuffs were obtained in the district.

2 samples	Sauce
1	" Oatmeal
1	" Glucose "D"
2	" White pepper
1	" Pepper compound.

44 samples of milk (including 6 samples of Channel Islands milk) were taken during the year and all but one were found to be genuine. The one sample was reported by the County Analyst to contain 2.3% of extraneous water. The vendor of the milk was cautioned and further samples of his milk taken.

There are 33 distributors of milk in the district. Only heat treated milk may be retailed and 24 of the distributors sell only sterilized milk.

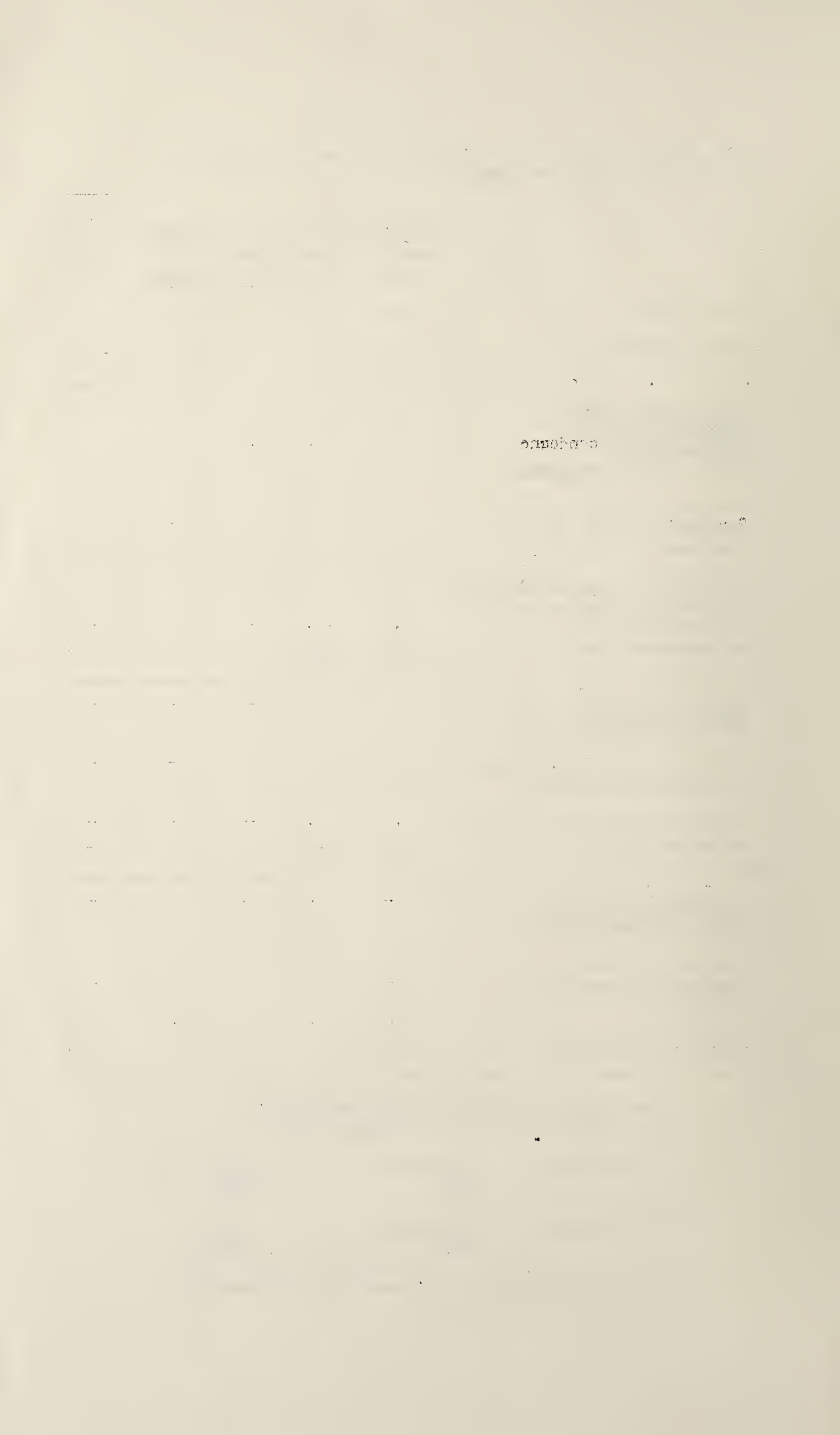
The one slaughterhouse continued to be used throughout the year, the record being as under.

	Cattle excl. cows.	Cows	Calves	Sheep & lambs	Pigs
Number killed	39	43	-	-	-
Number inspected.	39	43	-	-	-
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticercosis</u> Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	6	9	-	-	-
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticercosis.	15.39	20.9	-	-	-
<u>Tuberculosis only</u> Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	2	9	-	-	-
Percentage of number inspected affected with tuberculosis	5.12	20.9	-	-	-
<u>Cysticercosis only.</u> Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases pf which some part of organ was condemned.	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases refrigerated	-	-	-	-	-

The following amounts of meat were found to be unfit for food at the slaughterhouse.

Tuberculosis	Carcase meat	80lbs
	Offal	128lbs
Other disease	Carcase meat	8lbs
	Offal	64lbs.

The condemned meat is disposed of by incineration in nearby mill boilers.



SECTION F.

HOUSING.

Number of new houses erected during the year:

(i) By the local authority	Nil
(ii) By other bodies or persons.	Nil.

Inspection of dwelling-houses.

Number inspected formally or informally for housing defects.	189
Total inspections made	400
Number found not to be in all respects fit for human habitation.	53
Number made fit following informal action	40
Number so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for habitation at year end.	170

Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

Number in respect of which formal notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	7
Number in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices	
By owners	7
By local authority in default	Nil

Proceedings under Housing Acts.

Number in respect of which formal notices were served requiring repairs.	3
Number which after service of formal notices were rendered fit	
By owners	2
By local authority in default	1
Number demolished	4
Number closed in pursuance of an undertaking given by the owner.	Nil
Parts of buildings closed	Nil
Number of clearance areas represented	Nil

Proceedings under Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act.

Number closed	2
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Proceedings under Housing Acts 1949/54

Number of applications for improvement grants made by private individuals.	5
Number of dwellinghouses affected	5
Number of applications approved	4
Any other action under the Acts.	Nil.

